

## CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A voice messaging system, comprising:
  - a controller:
  - a user accessible voice message memory to store at least one user accessible voice message; and
  - a deleted voice message memory to store at least one user deleted voice message;wherein a voice message is initially compressed and stored in said user accessible voice message memory, and upon activation of a user selectable keypad option to delete said user accessible voice message from said user accessible voice message memory, said voice message is automatically re-compressed, moved and stored in said deleted voice message memory, such that, after re-compression, said voice message is more highly compressed than when it was stored in said user accessible voice message memory.
2. (original) The voice messaging system according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - a telephone line interface over which said voice message is initially received by said voice messaging system.
3. (original) The voice messaging system according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said voice message stored in said deleted voice message memory is retrievable for playback by a user.
4. (previously presented) The voice messaging system according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said voice message stored in said deleted voice message memory is removable from said deleted voice message memory to effect permanent deletion.
5. (original) The voice messaging system according to claim 4, wherein:
  - said voice message is permanently deletable from said deleted voice message memory via input from a keypad.
6. (original) The voice messaging system according to claim 4, wherein:

said voice message is removed from said deleted voice message memory and permanently deleted at a predetermined time interval.

7. (original) The voice messaging system according to claim 4, wherein:

said voice message is removed from said deleted voice message memory upon reaching a predetermined number of voice messages being simultaneously stored in said deleted voice message memory.

8. (original) The voice messaging system according to claim 7, wherein:

said removed voice message is an oldest stored voice message in said deleted voice message memory.

9. (original) The voice messaging system according to claim 4, wherein:

said voice message is removed from said deleted voice message memory upon reaching a predetermined percentage use of a memory capacity of said deleted voice message memory.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The voice messaging system according to claim 1, wherein:

said voice message in said deleted voice message memory is compressed using a bit rate which is lower than a bit rate of voice messages stored in said user accessible voice message memory.

12. (currently amended) A method for managing a user deleted compressed voice message from a voice messaging system, comprising:

automatically removing said user deleted compressed voice message stored in a user accessible first memory area upon activation of a user selectable keypad option to delete said user deleted compressed voice message from said user accessible first memory ~~area~~, area;

re-compressing said user deleted compressed voice message to produce a re-compressed voice message after said user selectable keypad option is activated, such that, after re-compression, said re-compressed voice message is more highly compressed than the user deleted

compressed voice message initially stored in said user accessible voice message memory;[[.]]

and

storing said re-compressed ~~user deleted~~-voice message in a second memory area.

13. (currently amended) The method ~~for managing a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 12, further comprising:

retrieving said re-compressed ~~user deleted~~-voice message from said second memory area for playback.

14. (currently amended) The method ~~for managing a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 12, further comprising:

inputting a predetermined code via a keypad for retrieving said ~~user deleted~~ re-compressed voice message from said second memory area.

15. (currently amended) The method ~~for managing a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 12, further comprising:

permanently deleting a voice message by removing said re-compressed voice message stored in said second memory area.

16. (currently amended) The method ~~for managing a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said permanent deletion occurs automatically based on a predetermined condition.

17. (currently amended) The method ~~for managing a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 16, wherein:

said predetermined condition corresponds to a predetermined time interval.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The method ~~for managing a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 15, further comprising:

removing said voice message from said second memory area upon reaching a predetermined number of voice messages simultaneously stored in said second memory area.

20. (currently amended) The method ~~for managing a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 15, further comprising:

removing said voice message from said second memory area upon reaching a predetermined percentage of a memory capacity of said second memory area.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) Apparatus for retrieving a user deleted compressed voice message from a voice messaging system, comprising:

means for automatically removing said user deleted compressed voice message stored in a user accessible first memory area upon activation of a user selectable keypad option to delete said user deleted compressed voice message from said user accessible first memory area;

means for re-compressing said user deleted compressed voice message to produce a re-compressed voice message;

means for storing said re-compressed ~~user deleted~~ voice message in a deleted voice message memory; and

means for retrieving said ~~user deleted~~ re-compressed voice message from said deleted voice message memory for playback.

23. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~for retrieving a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for inputting a predetermined code via a keypad for retrieving said ~~user deleted~~ re-compressed voice message from said deleted voice message memory.

24. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~for retrieving a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for permanently deleting said re-compressed voice message by removing said re-compressed voice message stored in said deleted voice message memory.

25. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~for retrieving a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for removing said re-compressed voice message from said deleted voice message memory upon reaching a predetermined number of voice messages simultaneously stored in said deleted voice message memory.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~for retrieving a user deleted voice message from a voice messaging system~~ according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for removing said re-compressed voice message from said deleted voice message memory upon reaching a predetermined percentage of a memory capacity of said deleted voice message memory.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A voice messaging system, comprising:

a controller;

a user accessible voice message memory to store at least one user accessible voice message; and

a deleted voice message memory to store at least one user deleted voice message;

wherein a voice message is initially compressed and stored in said user accessible voice message memory, and upon activation of a user selectable keypad option to delete said voice message from said user accessible voice message memory, said voice message is re-compressed, moved and stored in said deleted voice message memory, such that, after re-compression, said voice message is more highly compressed than when it was stored in said user accessible voice message memory; and

wherein a total storage space allocated to each of said user accessible voice message memory and said deleted voice message memory from a common total memory space is dynamically adjusted to optimize a space available for said user accessible voice message memory and said deleted voice message memory.

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) Apparatus for retrieving a user deleted compressed voice message from a voice messaging system, comprising:

means for removing said user deleted compressed voice message stored in a user accessible first memory area upon activation of a user selectable keypad option to delete said compressed voice message from said user accessible first memory area;

means for re-compressing said user deleted compressed voice message to produce a re-compressed voice message;

means for storing said ~~user deleted~~ re-compressed voice message in a second memory area;

means for retrieving said ~~user deleted~~ re-compressed voice message from said second memory area for playback; and

means for dynamically adjusting the total storage space allocated to each of said user accessible first memory area and said second memory area from a common total memory space to optimize a space available for said user accessible first memory area and said second memory area.

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)